

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 2, 2005. Claims 1-27 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 18 and 23 being in independent form. The Examiner's allowance of Claims 18-27 is acknowledged. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention without narrowing a scope thereof. Claims 1-17 are presented for reconsideration.

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,950,207 to Mortimore et al. Claims 1-17 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,971,923 to Finger.

This application relates to communication of medical information which includes both image data and quantitative data. An example of such quantitative data is bone mineral density values or quantitative morphometry, generated by a bone densitometer. A physician typically considers such quantitative data along with the scanned image, to assess the patient's condition.

The DICOM standard was developed to standardize communication of medical images in electronic form. However, the above-mentioned DICOM standard does not address the communication of medical information that includes both image data and quantitative data.

Applicant devised techniques for generating a composite file which can include both image data and quantitative data.

For example, independent claim 1 is directed to a method for generating a DICOM compatible file which comprises medical information including quantitative and image data. The method includes performing an image acquisition of at least a portion of a patient to be

examined, generating image data based on the performed acquisition, generating quantitative data based on the performed acquisition, and constructing a composite file. The image data is provided in an image data field of the composite file and the quantitative data is provided in a field of the composite file other than the image data field.

The cited art does not disclose or suggest such a feature, wherein the image data is provided in an image data field of the composite file and the quantitative data is provided in another field of the composite file, as provided by the claimed invention of claim 1.

Mortimore, as understood by the Applicant, is directed to a computer-based multimedia medical database management system and user interface for managing image data such as from a CT imaging device which may generate image data in a file structure such as DICOM v3.0. Mortimore further discloses that digital image data such as from a CT device or another data source may be formatted into a DICOM v3.0 file containing unique identifiers for each data object. Mortimore discloses a certain mnemonic for formatting an identifier linked to certain data objects associated with image or text. The term “field” used in Mortimore, column 4, lines 38-55 corresponds to fields in the identifier, and not to fields of a file.

Mortimore, as understood by the Applicant, is not understood to teach or suggest a method for generating a DICOM compatible file which comprises medical information including quantitative and image data, wherein the image data is provided in an image data field of a composite file and the quantitative data is provided in another field of the composite file, as provided by the claimed invention of claim 1.

Finger, as understood by Applicant, is directed to processing of ultrasound data. Finger discloses that the image data can be compressed based on a full screen compression

scheme such as the DICOM (Packbits) compression scheme.

Applicant does not find teaching or suggestion in Finger, however, of a method for generating a DICOM compatible file which comprises medical information including quantitative and image data, wherein image data is provided in an image data field of the composite file and quantitative data is provided in another field of the composite file, as provided by the claimed invention of claim 1.

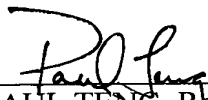
Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from the cited art. Dependent claims 2-17 are believed to be patentably distinct from the cited art, for at least similar reasons.

In view of the claim amendments and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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